

Commission News

www.mswcc.ms.gov

680 Monroe Street, Suite B, Jackson, MS 39202

Tel. 601.354.7645

Fax. 601.354.6628

Top 22 Envirothon teams to compete at State on April 26

JACKSON – The top five teams in statewide area Envirothon competitions and the top FFA teams qualified on March 21, 2019, to continue to the State level competition, which takes place April 26, 2019, at the FFA Center in Raymond, MS.



The winning teams in each area are as follows:

NORTH: Five academic and one FFA

team from the North Area competition, held at the University of Mississippi Field Station, 15 Co. Rd. 202, Abbeville, will advance to the State competition. The teams and members are:

First Place, OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL TEAM A:

Gillian Meyers, Siena Cizdziel, Anna Kang, Emma Teng and Claire Cizdziel. Oxford Team A achieved the high scores in all five categories, which include Soils, Wildlife, Forestry, Current Issue and Aquatic Ecology.

Second Place, OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL TEAM B:

Patricia Hughes, Zynub "ZuZu" Al-Sherri, Anh-Thu Le, Nadeen Al-Ostaz and Karen Carothers

Third Place, LAFAYETTE ENVIROTHON TEAM:

Dylan Christman, Jake Hunter Bonds, Harrison Withrow, Jon Allen Keel, Hayes Osborn, and alternate Michael Merchant.

Fourth Place, SOUTHAVEN TEAM A:

Benjamin Barulli, Thania Gonzales, Winwin Tjong, Darrius Farries and Dayana Moreno.

Fifth Place, SOUTHAVEN TEAM B:

Jarely Gonzales, Jocelyn Solito, Kirsten Carlisle, Alivia Alvarado and Jose Bolanos.

FFA Team, BENTON COUNTY CTC FFA:

Ethan Rogers, Cole Childs, Katie Coulee, Caitlin Vickers, Timmy Madru, and alternate Caleb Pannell.

DELTA:

Five teams from the Delta area are headed to State after the area competition, held at Delta Conservation Demonstration Center, 422 Feather Farms Rd., Metcalfe. The winning teams include:

First Place, SHARKEY-ISSAQUENA ACADEMY:

Kelley Womble, Sarah Grace Perkins, Ty Cov-

ington, Alex Anthony, John Bryce Fulton, and alternate John Davis Sharpe. Sharkey-Issaquena placed first in the categories of Soils, Forestry and Aquatic Ecology.

Second Place, INDIANOLA ACADEMY TEAM A: Lane Paxton, Charlie Holland, Eli Lipsey, Sayin

Envirothon, continued on page 2



Pictured in D.C., left to right: MACD Past President Pete Hunter, MS State Conservationist Kurt Readus, Rep. Michael Guest-R (MS-03), MACD President Jerry Smith, MSWCC Executive Director Mark Gilbert, and Don Underwood of Mettis Services LLC.

MS conservation leaders visit Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On March 20, Mississippi conservation leaders joined National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) representatives and conservation district officials



MACD First Vice President Anita Cowan with Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith

from across the country on Capitol Hill to advocate for locally-led conservation. This year's fly-in united 150 conservation district officials representing 27 states.

Members met with their representatives to communicate the

value of farm bill conservation programs and why funding for these programs and technical assistance is so crucial.

Mississippi leaders met with U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Rep. Michael Guest-R (MS-03), Rep. Trent Kelly-R (MS-01); Rep. Benny Thompson-D (MS-02); and staff members for Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Re. Steven Palazzo-R (MS-04).



Left to right: Pete Hunter, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith and Jerry Smith

Envirothon (continued from page 1)



NORTH First Place Oxford High School Team A



NORTH Second Place Oxford High School Team B



NORTH Third Place Lafayette High School



NORTH Fourth Place Southaven High School Team A



NORTH Fifth Place Southaven High School Team B

Kim and James Roberts. Indianola Academy Team A placed first in the Current Issue category.

Third Place, BAYOU ACADEMY TEAM A: Cross Crowe, Liv Price, Libby Bassie, Lindsey Steadman, Ben Malloy, and alternate McKenzie McGarrh. Bayou

Academy Team A placed first in the Wildlife category.

Fourth Place, CLEVELAND CENTRAL HIGH TEAM C: Kwamesha King, Zeddie Rice, Kim Kinget, Tylar Course and Jessie Washington Jr.

Fifth Place, INDIANOLA ACADEMY TEAM C: Will Davis, Mary Linton Davis, Alex Tannehill, John Luther Selby and Ji young Seo.

CENTRAL: In the Central Area competition, held at Chautauqua Park in Crystal Springs, MS, the top five winning teams and the top FFA team headed to state are:

First Place, HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TEAM A: Gage Mitchell, Emily Lewis, Jared Bewley, Sarah Grace Brownlee, Aaliyah Newsome, and alternate Sam Brownlee. Hillcrest Team A placed first in the Wildlife and Aquatic Ecology categories, and tied (3-way tie) in the Current Issues category.

Second Place, COPIAH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TEAM A: Emily Claire Coates, Patrick Tyson, Will Adams, Hailey Warren, Eli McCrory, and alternate William Lin. The team placed first in the Soils category.

Third Place, EAST RANKIN ACADEMY TEAM B: Will Maroney, Kevin Butts, Owen Wolfe, Josh Phillips and Hayden French.

Fourth Place, YAZOO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL: DeWayne Fountain, Layne Carpenter, Noble Newton, Marlon Brown, Shajaka Shelton, and alternate Melanie Warren. The team tied for first (3-way tie) in the Current Issue category.

Fifth Place, COPIAH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION TEAM B: Pryce Ainsworth, Gannon Whittington, Luke Sanders, Benjamin Toney and Hunter Reinike. Copiah Team B placed first in the Forestry category.

FFA Team, PUCKETT FFA: Dylan Staley, Tracer Bickerstaff, Landon Williams, Payton Lamoine and Jaycie Welch.

The **HILLCREST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL TEAM B** tied for first (3-way tie) in the Current Issues category.

SOUTH: Six teams, five scholastic and one FFA team, are headed to State from the South area after the competition at Vancleave City Park, 5400 Ballpark Rd. Vancleave.

First Place, PASCAGOULA HIGH SCHOOL TEAM A: Jack Monroe Harrison, Cailey Holliday, Zaniya Matthews, Alondra Reyes and Ethan Skinner. Pascagoula Team A placed first in the category of Soils and Current Issue.

ries of Soils and Current Issue.

Second Place, GREENE COUNTY FFA TEAM A: Ashton Shepherd, Vanessa Dement, Elijah Smith and Zayne Robertson, and Jared Platt. Greene County FFA Team A placed first in the Forestry category.

Third Place, HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL: Olivia Coble, Chase Rusher, Bailey Hahn, Regan Whittington, Sophia Fiore, and alternate Hannah Morris. The Hancock team placed first in the Aquatic Ecology category.

Fourth Place, STONE COUNTY FFA: Jordan Ladnier, Kaley Lapinskey, Robby Hoskins, Gavin Andrews and Laurel Hunt. The Stone County FFA team placed first in the Wildlife category.

Fifth Place, PASCAGOULA HIGH TEAM B: Andres Briseno, Joaquin Garcia, Caroline Floyd, Jayden Watson and Hayden Portwine.

FFA Team, GREENE COUNTY FFA TEAM A: Ashton Shepherd, Vanessa Dement, Elijah Smith, Zayne Robertson and Jared Platt.

The Mississippi Envirothon is funded through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. *Sponsors include: MS Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission, MDEQ, MS Forestry Association, Chevron Pascagoula Refinery and Georgia-Pacific Monticello Plant.*

(Photos continued on page 3)

Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Mark E. Gilbert, CPM, Executive Director

Pete Hunter
Chairman
Clarksdale, MS

Herman Dungan
Vice Chairman
Prentiss, MS

Jerry Smith
Philadelphia, MS

Greg Crochet
Gulfport, MS

Anita Cowan
Lamar, MS

Paul Myrick
Stringer, MS

Nick Elmore
Lucedale, MS

Pat Ragsdale
Walnut, MS

Buddy Allen
Tunica, MS

Russell Bozeman, Jr.
State Forester
Jackson, MS

Andy Gipson
Commissioner of
Agriculture
Jackson, MS

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Dr. Gary Jackson
Director, MSU-ES
Mississippi State, MS

Dr. George Hopper
Director, M.A.F.E.S.
Mississippi State, MS

www.mswcc.ms.gov



Mississippi Soil & Water
Conservation Commission
680 Monroe Street, Suite B
Jackson, MS 39202
Office: 601-354-7645
Fax: 601-354-6628
website: www.mswcc.ms.gov
Kathy Dougan, MSWCC
Public Relations Director
kdougan@mswcc.ms.gov

Envirothon (continued from page 2)



**NORTH First Place FFA Team
Benton County**



**DELTA-First Place Sharkey-Issaquena
Academy**



**DELTA-Second Place Indianola Academy
Team A**



**DELTA Fifth Place Indianola
Academy Team C**



**CENTRAL First Place Hillcrest Christian
School Team A**



**CENTRAL Second Place Copiah
Educational Foundation Team A**



**CENTRAL Third Place East Rankin
Academy Team B**



CENTRAL Fourth Place Yazoo County



**CENTRAL Fifth Place Copiah
Educational Foundation Team B**



CENTRAL FFA Puckett FFA



**SOUTH First Place Pascagoula High
School Team A**



**SOUTH Second Place Greene County
FFA Team A**



**SOUTH Third Place Hancock High
School**



SOUTH Fourth Place Stone County FFA



**SOUTH Fifth Place Pascagoula High
School Team B**



Traveling Ag Book Barn on the Road

During the month of April, the Traveling Agriculture Book Barn is onsite at the Lafayette Lower Elementary School in Lafayette County. The barn is filled with agriculture-themed books for students and teachers to use to teach children about life on the farm, food, animals, soil and water.

The traveling exhibit barn was constructed by Jimmy and Pat Watts. Jimmy is Jimmie Carol Watts' husband, and Pat is their son.

"Farm Bureau donated a lot of the books, and others have wanted to donate," Jimmie Carol Watts said. "Our commissioners are very proud of the barn."

If you'd like to bring the Book Barn to your school, please contact Jimmie Carol Watts at (662)234-8701 or drop by the Lafayette County SWCD, 2608 West Oxford Loop, Oxford, MS, 38655.

— Jimmie Carol Watts



Pictured left to right: Farrah McAlexander, Education Outreach, her granddaughter Vivian Harwell, and Ms. Magee, the Lafayette Lower Elementary Librarian. PHOTO BY JOHN HOBSON.

Progress report on Little Topashaw Creek Watershed

By Lee Smith

Environmental Administrator, MSWCC

Little Topashaw Creek is a tributary of the Yalobusha River and is located in the Northeastern portion of Webster County, Mississippi, and the Southwestern portion of Chickasaw County, Mississippi,

The 29,986-acre watershed consists of 10,495 acres of pastureland, 5,997 acres of forestland, 11,994 acres of cropland and 1,500 acres other, and this creek has been identified as a pri-

ority watershed by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Little Topashaw Creek is listed on Mississippi's 2018 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for biological impairments.

Joint efforts by the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission (MSWCC), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Webster and Chickasaw Counties Soil and Water Conservation District

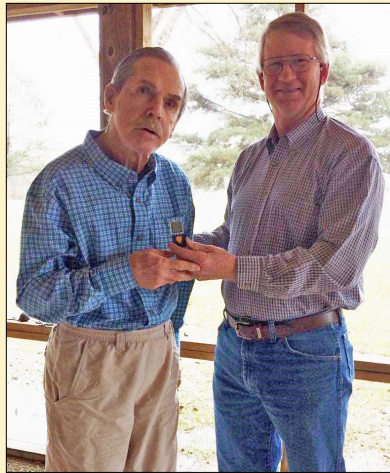
resulted in a proposal and subsequent implementation of a project to significantly reduce the amount of non-point source pollutants entering Little Topashaw Creek by demonstrating the effectiveness of selected Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The primary goals of the project have been:

- * To improve water quality and protect high quality waters;
- To reduce annual erosion to a minimum;
- * To apply BMPs to agricultural land in the demonstration project;



NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Perry Bailey, at left, and MSWCC Environmental Administrator Lee Smith place signs at the Little Topashaw Creek project. Area. Photo by Carlee Goode, MSWCC.



Barton receives service pin

Commissioner Webb O'Reilly, at right, presented C.E. "Bubba" Barton with a service pin from Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts. Mr. Barton served as a commissioner for Soil and Water for more than 25 years before retiring.

Terry Wynne, Chairman of the Holmes County Soil and Water Conservation District, stated: "Mr. Barton was instrumental in implementing conservation practices and educating landowners throughout Holmes County. We as an organization appreciate his many years of service and his dedication to preserving Holmes County's natural resources."

* To inform and educate the public about BMPs that benefit water quality.

Although this project is scheduled to end June 30, work is still ongoing to further assist the landowners in this watershed.

For additional information about the project, contact the Chickasaw County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service at (662) 456-1499, ext. 3, or the Webster County Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS at (662) 258-2357, ext. 3.



MISSISSIPPI

Soil & Water
Conservation Commission

YOUTH CAMP
JUNE 9-13, 2019 HINDS CC, RAYMOND

Contact your local SWCD for more information.
Registration deadline is April 24 for first-time campers; May 1 for returning campers